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Biography of

JANE

GIBSON

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JANE GIBSON

See: Mary Eisleitner, the daughter of Salome Muller and Charles Eisleitner.

ALIASES:

Jane Gibson,
Leitner,
Jane, Mary, May or Jessie M. Easton,
Janette Hilton,
Anna King,
Kitchke.

MARRIAGE NAME - Kesselring

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RELATIVES AND OTHERS

Salome Muller Eisleitner Carrenner

Mother

71 Willow Avenue, Hoboken, N.J.

Widow, about 76 years of age. Has a small 2-room flat, poorly furnished, the rent of which is paid by her daughter, Minnie Roehl.

Married in France to first husband, Charles Eisleitner; arrived in New York City in 1871. First husband (Jane Gibson's father) died at 51.

Second husband, William Carrenner, died in New Brunswick, at 82, about the year 1924.

Has had 15 children, of which Jane Gibson is one.

Loaned Jane Gibson about \$1200, prior to Sept. 14, 1922, in connection with payment of mortgage on Jane Gibson's farm and the operation of the farm.

At time of murders moved from New Brunswick to Bayonne. It was about then the mother took up the payment of the loan and was told that she would make \$10 weekly payments on account. Since then estrangement has developed between mother and daughter.

Mother's opinion is that Jane Gibson has an obsession for the acquisition of money and that she would do anything to obtain it.

The filial relations have never been close. Terms her daughter "a liar, a bum and no good."

The mother feels that Jane Gibson has brought disrespect upon her by her conduct and gives as her reason for moving from New Brunswick to Hoboken, Jane Gibson's reflection on her name.

Also states that Jane Gibson has called her a name that she cannot repeat.

Minnie Roehl

Sister

63 Willow Street, Hoboken, N.J.

Apparently respectable.

Has husband and two (2) children.

Lives near mother, whom she cares for financially and otherwise.

Is not on friendly terms with Jane Gibson.

Madeline Williams

Sister

644 Broadway, Bayonne, N.J.

Is a questionable character.

Also known as "Madame Hettie" and earned living formerly as a gypsy fortune teller. This practice discontinued by police.

Resides in a house of ill repute in Bayonne.

Acquaintances say that she is not on good terms with Jane Gibson.

Is said to conduct house which she occupies, living quarters being over a saloon.

Has a notorious reputation.

Formerly resided in Bayonne where her associates, particularly men, were considered as of lowest order morally.

Evicted from house in Bayonne because of immorality. Husband known there as "black-hand Williams," term

"black-hand" being nickname rather than descriptive of activities.

John Eisloitner

Brother

Whereabouts unknown.

Believed to have disappeared sometime ago.

Application for payment of policy of insurance on his life made by his mother.

Charles Eisloitner

Brother

47 West 54th St., Bayonne, N.J.

Andrew Eisloitner

Brother

Has criminal record: Alias Leitner, "Skid;" Bayonne Police Department Photo Gallery Picture #831; age 8/13/20 - 38 years; born Hoboken, N.J.

10/12/19 arrested by Lieutenant Noonan and Acting Detective Clark; charge robbery;
11/13/19 found guilty of assault and battery;
placed on probation to pay costs. Judge Doherty.

8/13/20 arrested by Acting Detective Keldroff, charge grand larceny, stealing a magneto from auto of Charles Bailey (colored), automobile at 27 East 1st Street. 10/10/21 tried Special Sessions, found not guilty, Discharged - Judge Doherty.

William (or "Willie") Easton

Son

Resides on Gibson Farm.

Is about 25 years old and said to be Jane Gibson's son by Harry Kitchke, with whom Jane Gibson lived.

Is not the son of the elder William Easton.

Helps about the farm and ordinarily collects swill from hospitals and other places in New Brunswick for "pigs".

Is completely dominated by his mother. There is a rumor current that she horsewhipped him four years ago.

In her story four years ago Jane Gibson said that he

could verify her statement of her second trip to the Phillips Farm the night of 9/14/22, when she claims she saw Mrs. Hall.

"Willie," when asked by others why he, a big strapping lad, did not accompany his mother on her trips to the Phillips Farm that night, stated he knew nothing about the matter and that the first time he heard about his mother's connection with it was when reporters visited his home to interview her.

Alice Easton

Adopted daughter.

Is about 21.

Comes from a poor family who lived next door to Jane Gibson, probably in Trenton, and the parents of whom were unable to support the number of children they had.

Left Jane Gibson a few years ago.

Is believed to be in California.

Jane Gibson

Daughter

Born June 18, 1923.

Is Jane Gibson's child by William Whittaker, who no longer lives with Jane Gibson.

William H. Easton

Lives with Jane Gibson.

Is about 55 years old and has lived with her for about 14 years as her husband. Was never married to her. She was known as his wife in Trenton in 1912-1914.

Is now employed in New Brunswick.

Is said to have treated Jane Gibson's story lightly four years ago when interviewed by reporters.

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E A R L Y L I F E

Born December 6, 1873, in New York City, on the lower East Side, the daughter of Charles and Salome Muller Eisleitner.

Attended by a midwife who failed to register her birth.

Note that Jane Gibson has stated on the witness stand that she was born in the South; also that her maiden name is Leitner.

During her earlier girlhood she left home for many years at a time, failing to communicate with her parents.

She became incorrigible when quite young and would do anything for money.

For some reason she has always attempted to hide the place of her birth.

A Mr. Lewis C. McClurg, 333 Spring Street, Trenton, N.J., real-estate agent of property formerly occupied by Jane Gibson, states she once told him one of her parents was French and one German and that she was born on a Spanish ship.

At 17 she married Frederick Kesselring of Stirling, N.J., in Paterson on August 13, 1890, marriage being performed by Ferdinand Weiss, a Passaic County Justice of the Peace. It is said that this marriage was a forced one brought about by her pregnant condition.

From the time of her marriage until February 16, 1892 she lived with Kesselring in Paterson and on the last mentioned date moved to Jersey City.

June 13, 1894, they separated.

In 1895 and 1896 for some months she resided in N.Y. City. While with Kesselring she had two (2) still-born children.

During October and November of 1896 she is charged by Kesselring in his divorce petition as having lived in adultery with Harry Ray as his wife of 602 First Street, Hoboken, N.J.

Kesselring also states that shortly after the marriage, while they lived in Jersey City Heights, Jane Gibson was constantly in the company of a Charles Johnson, a neighbor, and was in the habit of remaining away from home at nights. It was then that he began to question her fidelity.

KESSELRING'S DIVORCE

March 18, 1897 petition filed in New Jersey Chancery Court; May 3, 1897, answer and cross-bill filed alleging desertion and inhuman treatment; June 22, 1897 Application filed; January 4, 1898 final decree filed granting Kesselring divorce.

John H. Bonn and Jno. S. Mabon, Attorneys for Kesselring.

Corbin & Corbin, Attorneys for Jane Gibson.

On the day of the hearing of the divorce action Jane Gibson appeared in court but left immediately after the case was called.

Kesselring based his charges of adultery on the testimony of two women witness, who have since died, and a detective by the name of Messingkop.

Kesselring understands that Jane Gibson was arrested in a disorderly house in Hoboken at about the time he obtained his divorce.

He recognized the "Anna King picture" taken while Jane Gibson was a concert performer. She was then about 22 years old.

Speaking of her, he states that "she is a liar and would lie or do anything for money and would never tell the truth."

Messingkop remembers Mary Bisleitner and her husband Kesselring. Recalls that he and another officer arrested a Rose Gleitzman for stealing jewelry in New York. This woman confessed and stated she had sold stolen articles to May Ray (Mary Bisleitner) who conducted an intelligence agency on First Street between Madison and Jefferson Sts., New York City. May Ray was accused of being a "fence" but was not arrested as she returned the stolen goods.

CIRCUS EMPLOYMENT

1898-1899

There is no definite information regarding Jane Gibson as a circus performer during her early life, although McClurg states that in a conversation he had with her at Trenton sometime between 1909 and 1914 she had mentioned that at one time she was a bare-back rider in a circus.

The picture of Jane Gibson as "Anna King," when shown to Mr. John Higgins of 70 Morris Avenue, Newark, N.J. (Taylor Candy Company) was recognized by him as that of a divorced woman who lived with Stumpy Gillin in New

Branswick. She was known as the "bare-back" rider and believed to have been with Barnum & Bailey's circus at one time. Higgins believes that Jane Gibson and Stumpy Gillin were both in the circus. p 8

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1899-1900

According to Mrs. Carronner, Jane Gibson lived with a man named Lee Maring in Reading, Pennsylvania; later another man named Bill Sutter for a few years.

Connection with Fatty or Stumpy Gillin

1900-1902

Fatty or Stumpy Gilliland (Gillin) kept a roadhouse in New Brunswick, where he lived with Jane Gibson, although they were not married, until about 1902. Stumpy Gillin's place is one of the old landmarks in New Brunswick and known as the ancient hotbed of immorality. Bicycle races were one of the features of entertainment participated in by habitués, amongst whom was Jane Gibson.

1903-1904

Although this date is not definite it was about this time that Jane Gibson lived with Harry Kitchky, to whom she was not married. Kitchky has been seen recently but refuses to commit himself as to his relations with her, although Kitchky's uncle states that he is pretty certain that the relationship was a meretricious one. "Willie" Easton is said to be the product of that union.

LIFE IN HOBOKEN, BAYONNE & NEWARK

1904-1909

It is difficult to determine Jane Gibson's activities during this period, but it is quite likely that her activities then centered in the vicinity of Hoboken, Bayonne and Newark.

At one time she is placed as a singer in Gansberg's Dance Hall on Washington Street in Hoboken.

Her mother states that she conducted a disorderly house at 119 Academy Street, Newark, where she was arrested and convicted. There is no record of either her arrest or conviction. The arrest is said to have been made by Detectives Carson and Coakley and Chief Uphous. She is also believed to have been in a disorderly house at

17 Fair Street, Newark. At the time of the arrest she had the assumed name of "Janette Hilton" and had in her employ a young girl whom she compelled to have intercourse with seven men. p9

She is also said to have occupied or been in a disorderly house at 47 Orange Street, Newark, and to have attained considerable money from a Newark storekeeper by unlawful means.

It was while she was soliciting passersby in Newark for purposes of prostitution that she met William Easton, with whom she continued to live up to the present, except for intervals.

One Hugo Sipple, a proprietor of a hardware store at 39 Market Street, Newark, lived a few doors from 34 Campbell Street, where Jane Gibson resided under the name of "Janette Hilton". He doesn't recall anything about the house except that it was a disorderly resort.

George J. Coehring, a blacksmith, 118 Academy Street, Newark, remembers 34 Campbell Street as a disorderly house and the scene of many fights and raids. He remembers a short, dark woman living here with a man who never worked and sat on the stoop, while the woman went out, picked up men and brought them to the house.

1908

Jane Gibson owned a house at this time at 187 Broadway, Bayonne, where she did dressmaking and kept chickens, pigeons and rabbits in the yard. She was then known as Jennie Easton.

LIFE IN TRENTON

1910-1914

She resided here with William Easton, living at one time at 463 Chestnut Avenue, and from April 6, 1912 to April 6, 1914, at 338 South Broad Street.

Young Bill Easton and Alice went to the private school of a Miss Ireland.

William Easton was listed as an auctioneer and it was understood merely boarding with Mrs. Easton while employed as a machinist at a watch factory.

It was during her sojourn in Trenton that Bill Whittaker came into the picture.

Here she conducted a diversified business, trading horses, buying and selling furniture, and inducing others to buy and sell, in this way earning a commission.

She kept a cheap rooming house, renting her rooms to couples without questioning their relationship.

On numerous occasions disorder broke out in her

house.

P10

One former Police Officer, Gus Kulp, now in Atlantic City, remembers her very well, particularly the incident which brought him to her house on one occasion. He answered a complaint made by Jane Gibson regarding the uproar caused by the constant quarreling of a man and woman living there as husband and wife but not married, according to Jane Gibson. He investigated and ordered them out, Jane Gibson refusing to prefer any complaint against them.

Whittaker left his mother, who was dying of tuberculosis, to live with Jane Gibson, then known as Jessie M. Easton

The family then consisted of William Easton, Jane Gibson, Whittaker, "Willie" and Alice Easton.

The elder Easton was found drunk on several occasions, and he is believed to have left Jane Gibson for a time because of her intimate relations with Whittaker.

A sister of Whittaker, Mrs. Dumbaski, states that after her mother's death her father lived with her and that Jane Gibson visited her on many occasions. These visits were discontinued because of Mrs. Dumbaski's protestations regarding the intimacies between her father and Jane Gibson.

A sister-in-law of Whittaker states that while Jane Gibson was in Trenton she was accustomed to riding on a mule and was always out spying on somebody and constantly laboring under the belief that people were stealing from her.

She had a reputation for her unreliability. On one occasion the police visited her home and there arrested a Mrs. Burton and an Italian, who were living together in one of the rooms. The report on this is as follows:

"Apr. 24, 1914, 3:30 P.M. Mrs. Jessie Easton, who conducts room house at 338 So. Broad St., informed me that a woman by name of Mary Burton is living in the apartment with 3 children and that she is not a fit person to take care of them as these children are very often crying for something to eat and Rebecca Marker, who has a room next to Mrs. Burton says that most every night the Barton woman has men in her bedroom until 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning."

Signed "Patrolman Maurice Murphy"

Before she left Trenton she was financially embarrassed and made an assignment for the benefit of creditors.

She is known to have bid in some goods at a sale and to

have taken the articles away without paying for them.

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She also left unpaid debts behind her.

Mr. Clifford A. Worthington, a real-estate operator, 144 East State Street, Trenton, had a contract dated May 3rd, 1910, for the purchase of land from Robert Butterworth and others on the northerly side of Butler Street, which is signed by William H. Easton and Jessie H. Easton, his wife (Jane Gibson). Before taking title she employed one Winfield Scott Hill to erect a barn on the property and failed to compensate him.

Chief County Detective James S. Kirkham of Trenton does not recall Jane Gibson ever being arrested, though he remembers numerous complaints were received by the prosecutor's office about her running a disorderly house. They threatened to raid her place if similar reports were filed. He states that he would not take her word "to even convict a yellow dog".

Vincent P. Bradley of 50 Perdicaris place, Trenton, remembers that Jane Gibson and her husband were arrested while at 336 South Broad Street for being parties to a "badger" game. He considers her erratic, malicious and "shady".

LIFE IN NEW BRUNSWICK

1914 -

Very little is known of Jane Gibson's life at New Brunswick during the first four years (1914-1916) of her stay here.

Dr. Little, formerly in charge of the Rockefeller Institute in New Brunswick during these years, and now at Princeton, remembers that she bought horses, sold pigs and carcasses of horses, and that she dealt in chicken wire and junk.

Her family, on her removal to New Brunswick, was constituted of old and young Easton, Bill Whittaker and herself. Alice had previously left her.

She has always been known here as Jane Gibson, adopting the name of "Gibson," by which the farm was known.

She told Dr. Little that she had spent part of her life in a circus as a "bare-back rider".

She spoke of Whittaker as her brother.

1918

During the early summer of this year a cow belonging to

Mr. Joseph Kossak, one of Jane Gibson's neighbors, broke away and into the truck garden of Jane Gibson, who seized the cow and kept it in her shed, informing Kossak that she would return the cow only on payment of \$5. This he paid. About a year later two horses belonging to Jane Gibson entered Kossak's corn fields, causing damage. He locked them in his barn and informed her that on payment of \$5, to compensate him for the damage they had caused, he would return them. Jane Gibson refused to pay this amount and, with Bill Whittaker, administered a severe beating to Mrs. Kossak - Kossak being then away. They then took the horses from Kossak's barn together with a bunch of keys, a lock and two new halters belonging to Kossak, which were never returned. Mrs. Kossak was then in a pregnant condition and suffered a miscarriage because of the beating. P12

Kossaks preferred charges against Jane Gibson but the Grand Jury of Somerset County failed to indict on account of insufficient evidence. Jane Gibson, Whittaker and "Willie" Easton testified before this Grand Jury that Mrs. Kossak had chased them from her house to the Gibson house and that she had fired twenty (20) shots into Jane Gibson's front door.

Kossak states that when Jane Gibson's pigs died with colera, she would dress them and take them to New Brunswick or Somerville, where she sold the carcasses to the local butchers.

It is also stated that a Mrs. Petrucci, living near Jane Gibson on the old Millstone Road, lost six (6) pigs at one time which she had good reason to believe Jane Gibson had stolen from her.

In this connection, Mr. Joseph Baier has expressed the opinion that Jane Gibson is responsible for many thefts of chickens occurring in the vicinity.

Kossak remembers that Bill Whittaker always carried a two-barrel shotgun.

For some time prior to September 14, 1922, and up to about a week before that time, a young negro by the name of Cecil Battle lived on the Gibson Farm. It is reported that he, too, had illicit relations with Jane Gibson. It was shortly before the murders that Cecil Battle was arrested in New Brunswick on a charge of assault, having slashed another negro with a knife or razor.

1921

Mr. McCormick, steward at the Rutgers mess-hall, states that Jane Gibson collected the swill for her pigs. She paid no compensation for this concession. After she had been engaged in this for some time, McCormick

received and accepted an offer of fifty dollars (\$50) from a man for this concession. Jane Gibson, when informed of this, became incensed and went to the college authorities claiming that she had been paying McCormick one hundred dollars (\$100) a year for this privilege. This was a deliberate lie and intended to place McCormick in an embarrassing situation. The college authorities were satisfied with his explanation of the matter and dismissed her.

Her reputation in the vicinity where she lives is not of the very best. There is a large number of foreigners living about her who seem to fear her very much. Reports have been current that she has chased people across her property, intent on making a short cut, by firing at them with a shot gun. Both Walter Brown, the son of an elderly farmer, and Mr. Joseph Baier are certain that she always had a revolver of some kind on her person.

June 18, 1923.

Jane Gibson, the daughter of Whittaker and Jane Gibson, born. Circumstances attending the birth are in detailed form in the report of Gregory dated Sept. 24, 1926.

Jane Gibson sent "Willie" to her mother, then living in New Brunswick, to ask her to come up to the farm as "she had just had a baby".

Mrs. Cerrenner accompanied "Willie" to one-room shanty near the front gate near the Gibson Farm where she found Jane Gibson in bed with Whittaker alongside. Evidence of child birth was visible.

On Mrs. Cerrenner's inquiring as to what doctor she had had, Jane Gibson replied: "I had no doctor or anyone, I just cut the string myself like I cut the pigs".

She asked Mrs. Cerrenner to care for the child, stating that she did not want Easton to know about it.

Mrs. Cerrenner, Whittaker and "Willie" carried Jane Gibson to her house on the same farm, after which Mrs. Cerrenner, Whittaker, "Willie" and the baby went to Mrs. Cerrenner's home.

Mrs. Cerrenner inquired whether she had had the baby registered. Her reply was: "No, I can't have her registered under the name of Whittaker and I'll be damned if I'll have her registered under the name of Easton."

After this Whittaker transferred his attentions to a

widow named Mrs. Mattison, with whom he is now living in New Brunswick.

Whittaker then was employed as night watchman at the City Yards & Stables in New Brunswick. George Conlon, another employee there, recounts a conversation he had with Jane Gibson who went there looking for Whittaker and who complained to Conlon about Whittaker's abandonment of her and his infatuation for the Mattison woman. She asked Conlon to tell Whittaker that "he had better come up and see his child".

At one time, becoming enraged at Whittaker's continued absence, Jane Gibson went to the home of Mrs. Mattison and there administered a beating to the Mattison woman.

March, 1923

Jane Gibson and her mule "Jennie" appeared at the Marine Million Dollar Circus at the Armory, 67th Street and Broadway, New York City, charging twenty-five cents (25¢) to spectators for a glimpse at herself and the mule and selling post card pictures of both

1924

Jane Gibson is reported to have horsewhipped "Willie" Easton, the reason therefor being unknown.

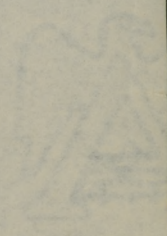
1926

Roland Harbough, a well-driller, living on Hamilton Road toward East Millstone, states that when crossing Jane Gibson's property in July, Jane Gibson appeared and threatened to shoot him if he didn't remove himself immediately

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